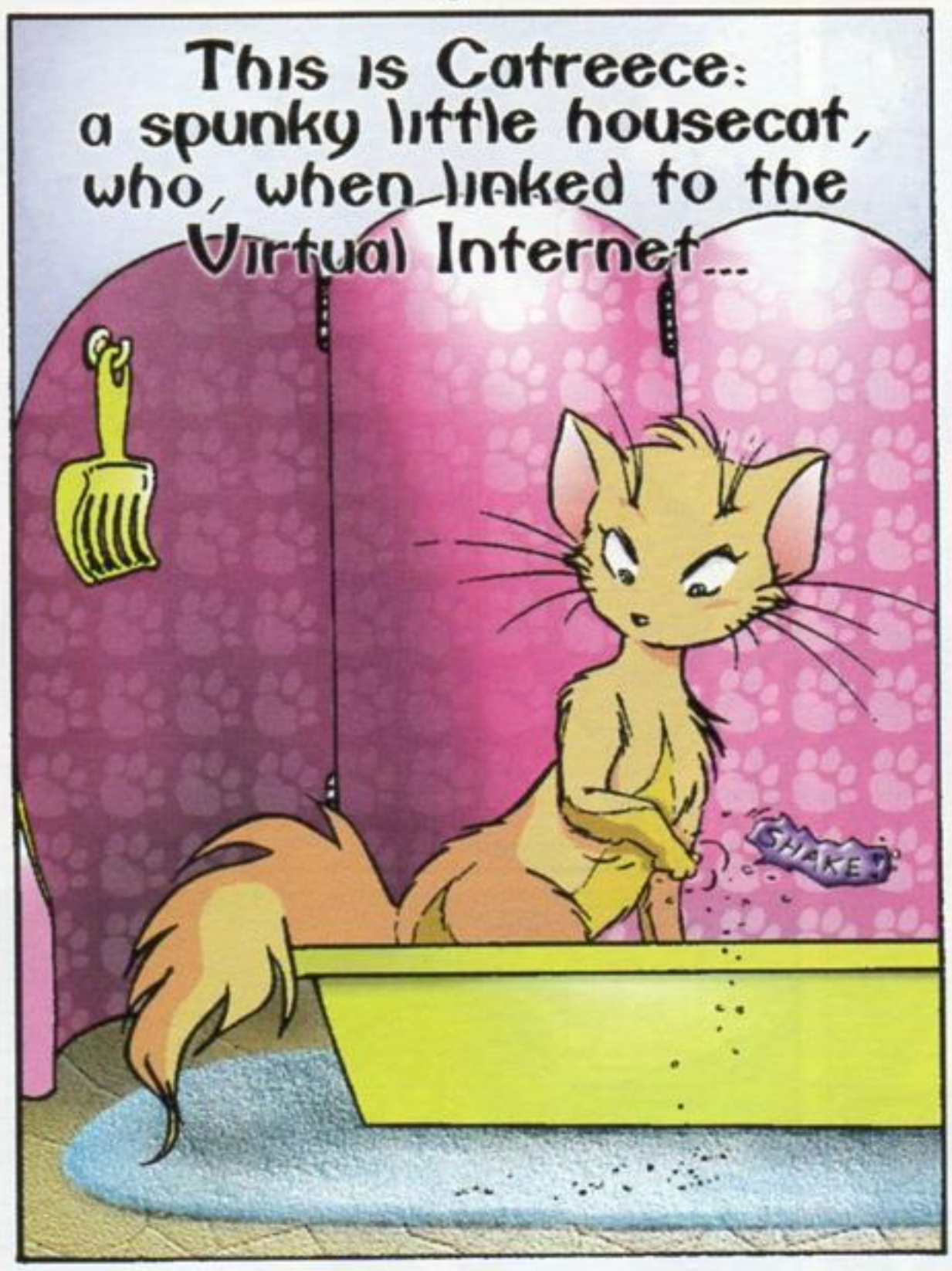
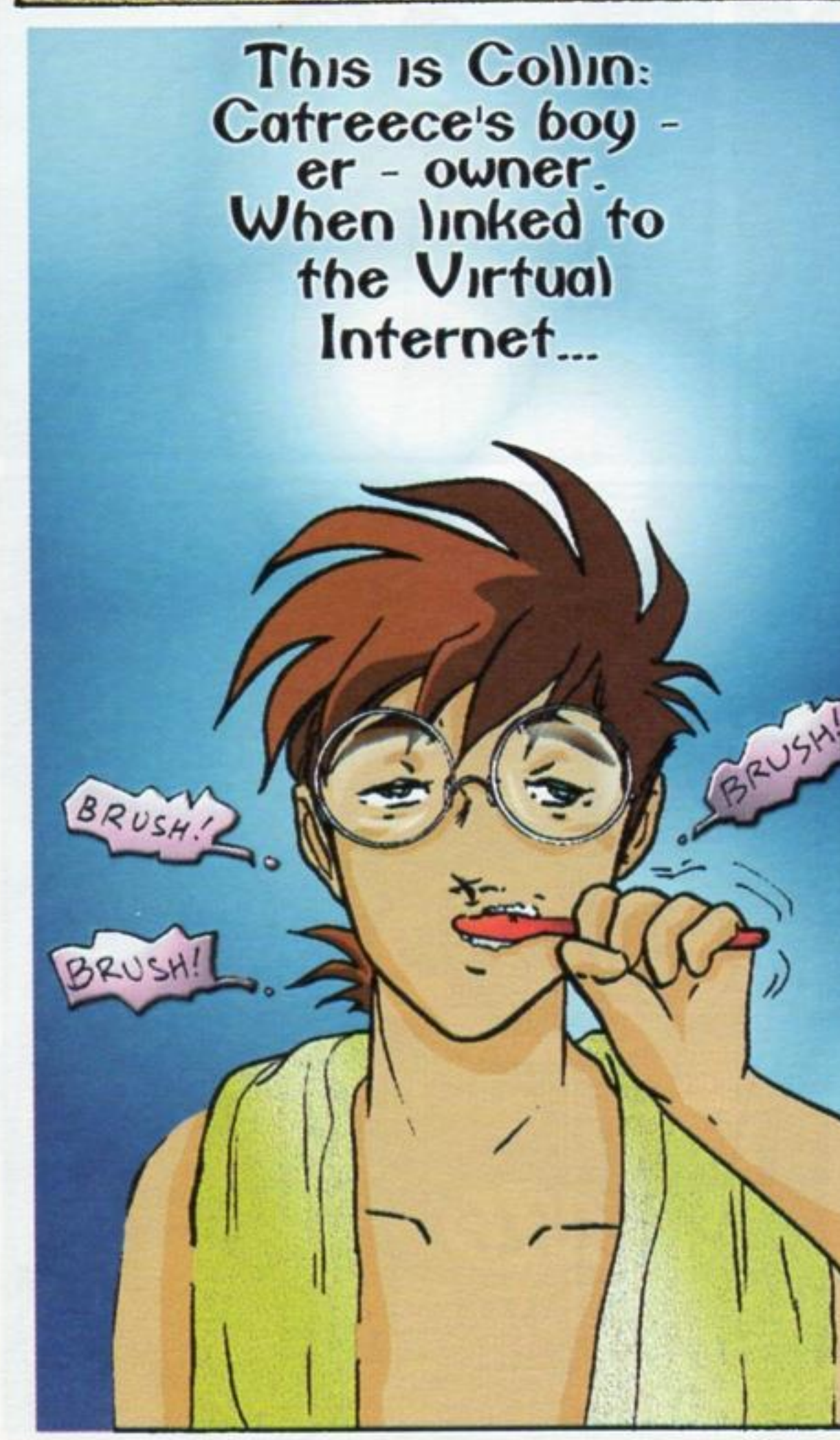
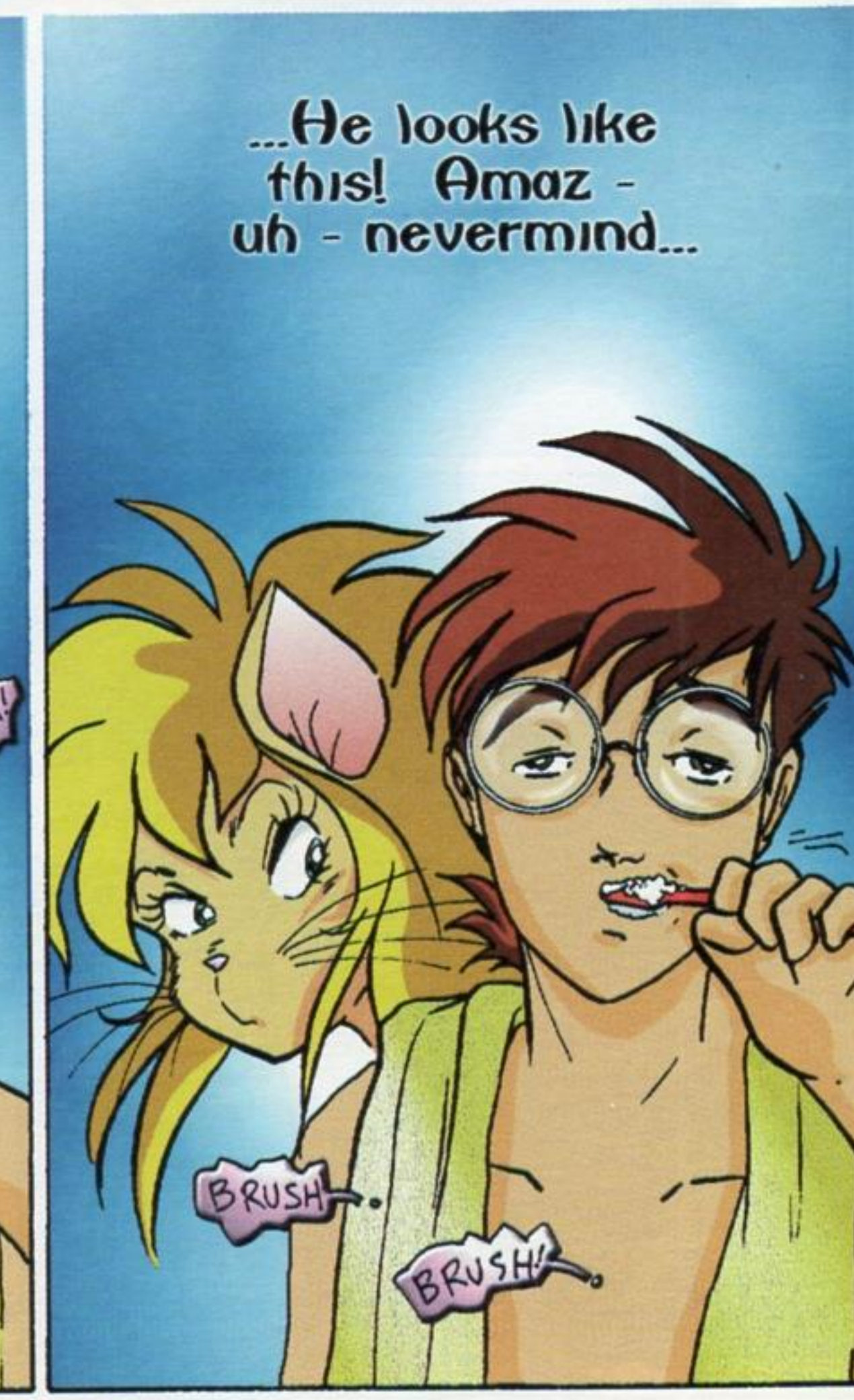
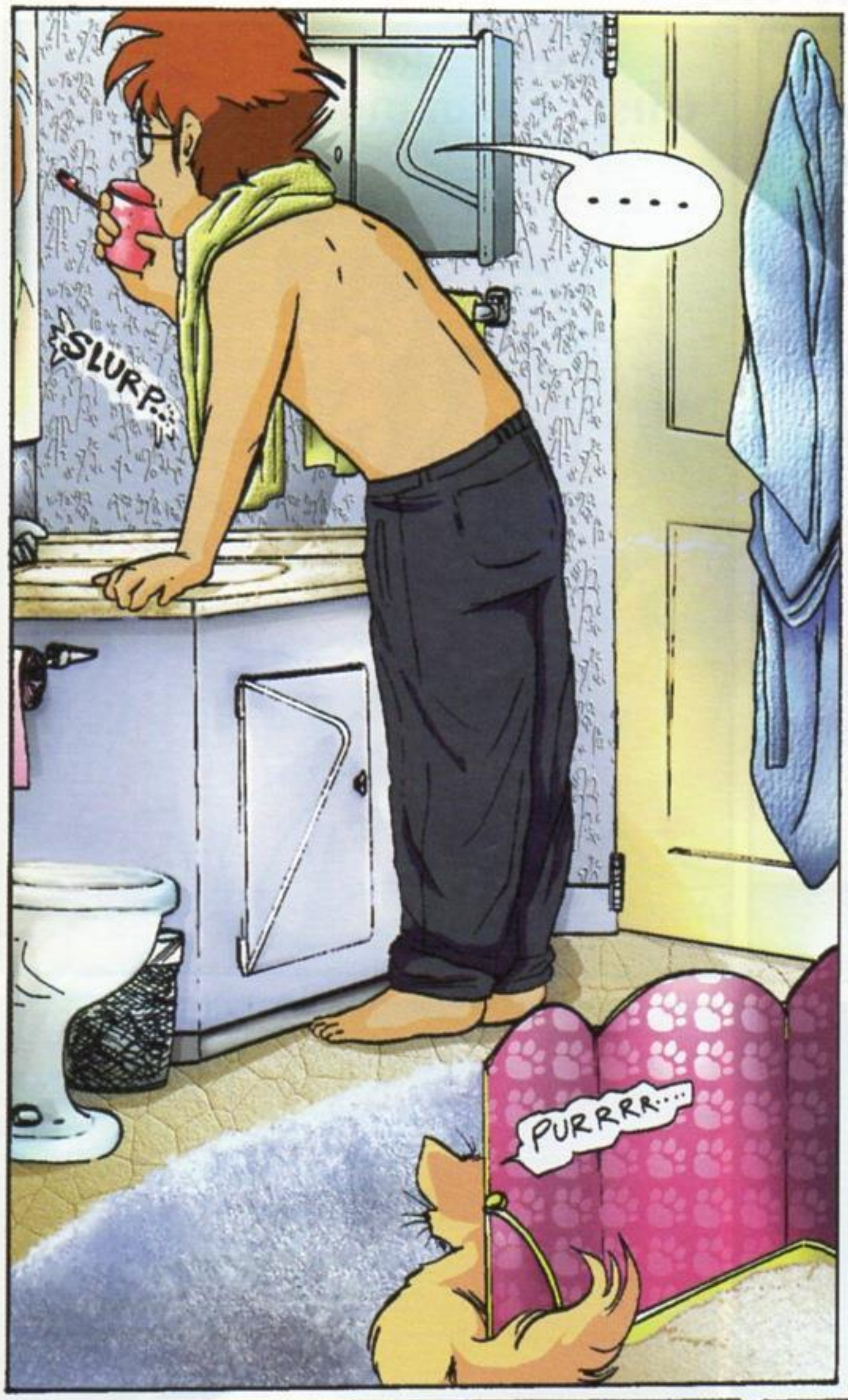
CHAPTER TWO

002: Surfing the Internet???





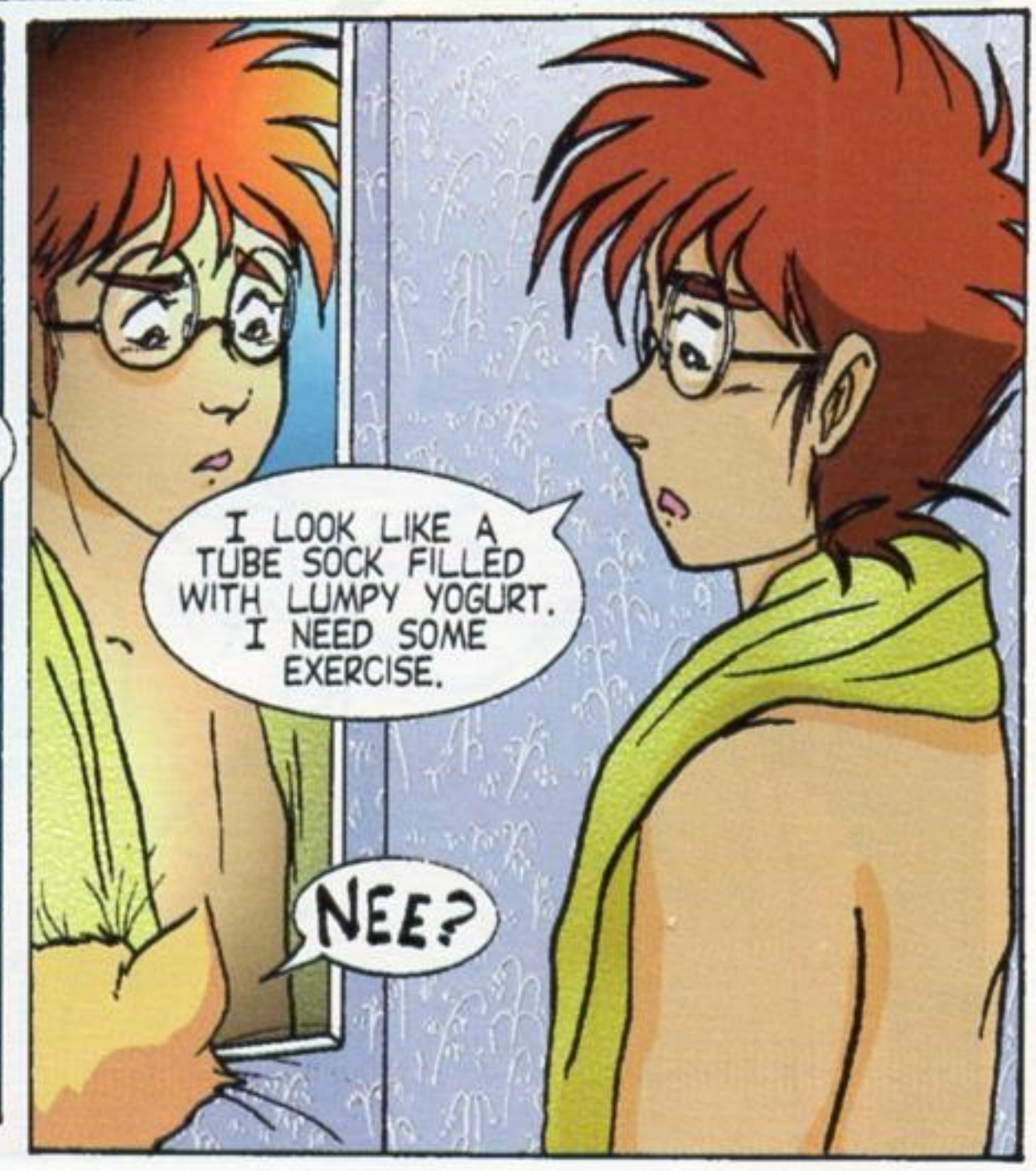



....
SLURP...
PURRRR...

?
SPIT!

PAT
PAT

HMMM...
WOBBLE!


I LOOK LIKE A TUBE SOCK FILLED WITH LUMPY YOGURT. I NEED SOME EXERCISE.
NEE?

BLEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEP! BLEEP!
UH, OH. I'D BETTER GET THAT. NOBODY ELSE IS HOME.

HELLO? OH, HI ERK.
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

NOTHING. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TWITCH

NO, I DON'T KNOW WHEN MY DAD'S GOING TO GET A VIDPHONE. QUIT ASKING ME.
PUURR
Boo
Boo
1970

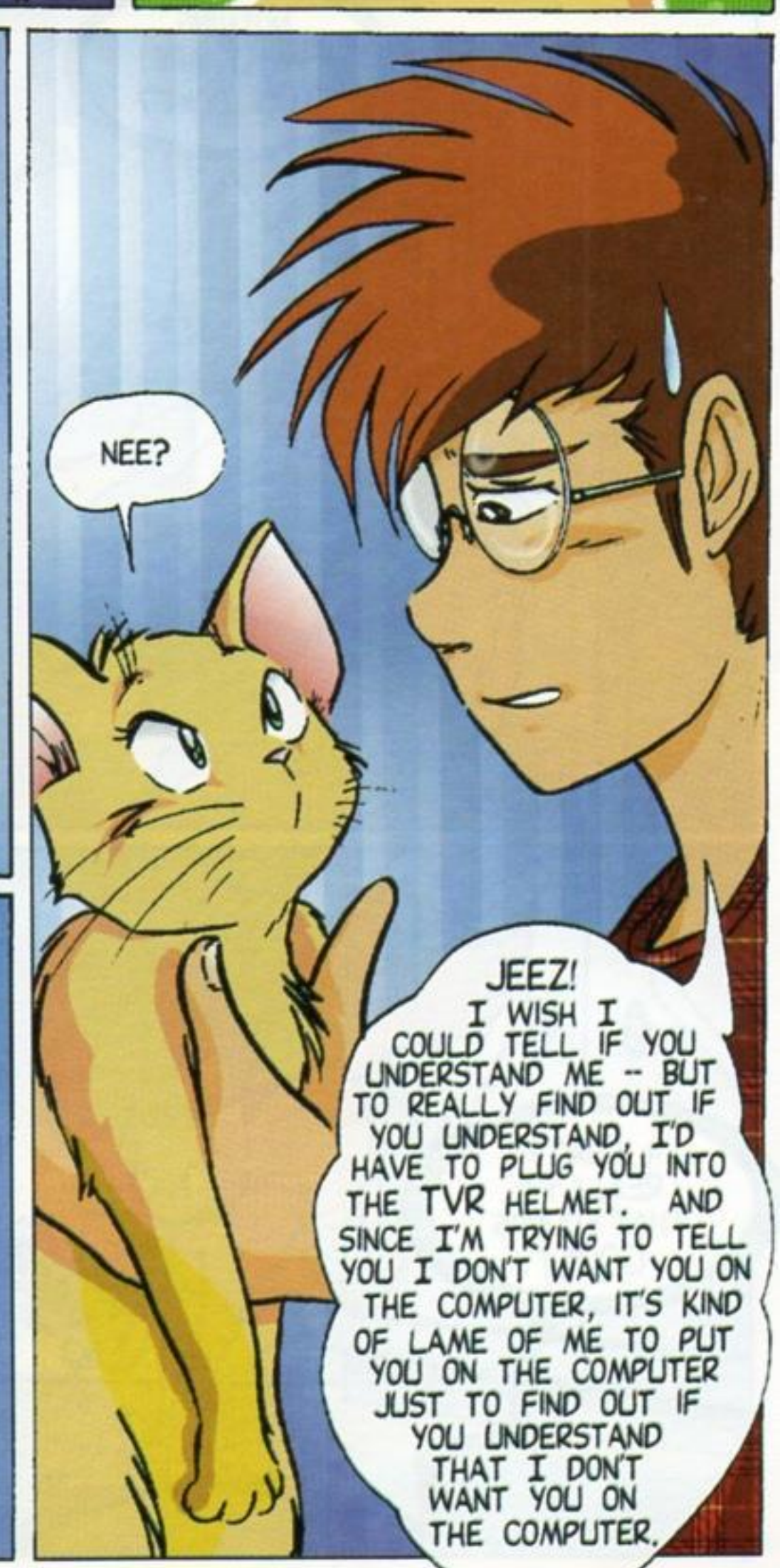
A BOAT? REALLY? THAT SOUNDS COOL!
Pounce

OKAY, I'LL BE AT YOUR PLACE IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES. BYE!

CATREECE!

OH, NO YOU DON'T! COME HERE. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A TALK.
CATREECE, PLEASE! COMPUTERS ARE NOT FOR KITTIES! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? NOT FOR KITTIES!

FTT!

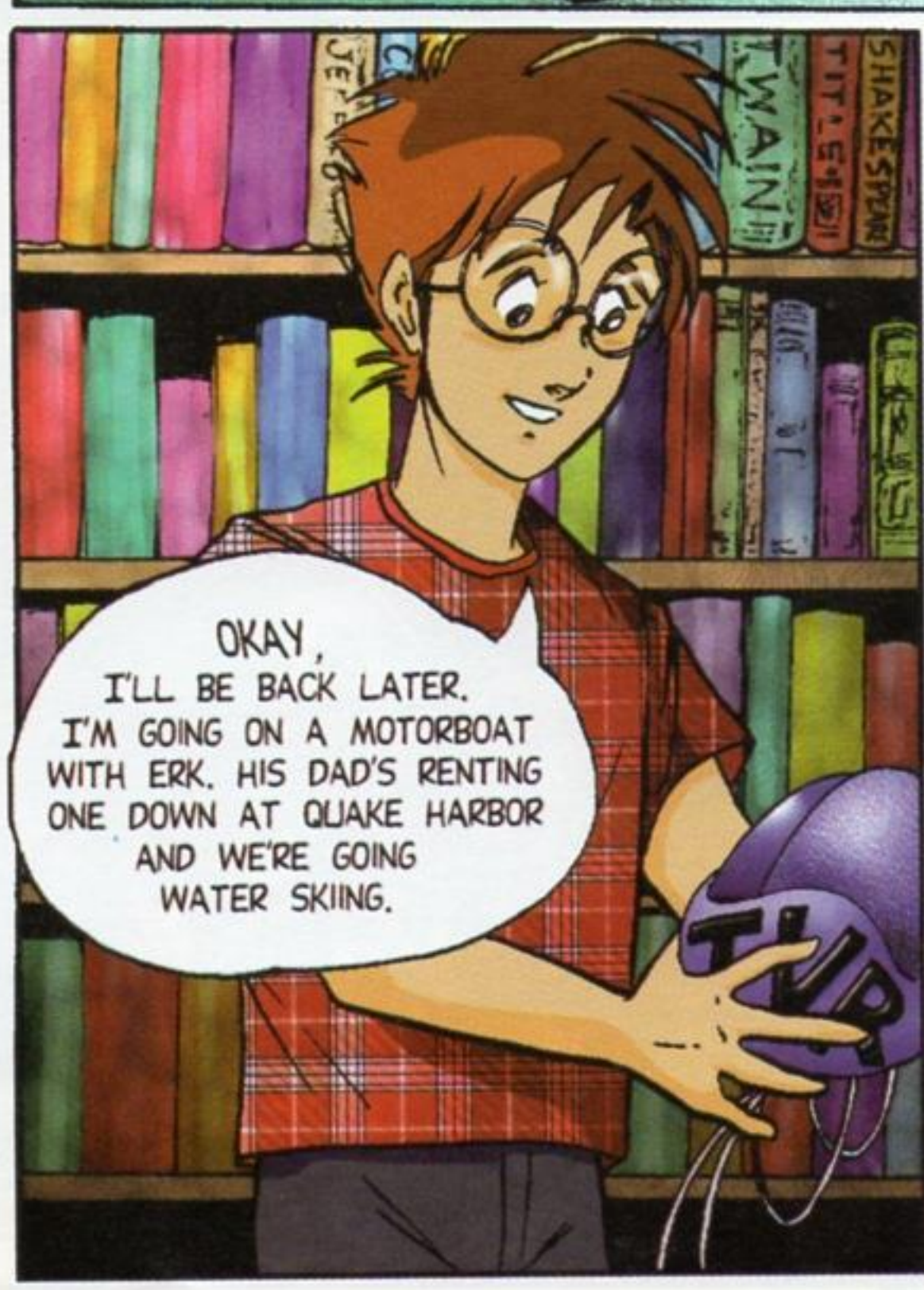

NEE?
JEEZ! I WISH I COULD TELL IF YOU UNDERSTAND ME -- BUT TO REALLY FIND OUT IF YOU UNDERSTAND, I'D HAVE TO PLUG YOU INTO THE TVR HELMET. AND SINCE I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU I DON'T WANT YOU ON THE COMPUTER, IT'S KIND OF LAME OF ME TO PUT YOU ON THE COMPUTER JUST TO FIND OUT IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I DON'T WANT YOU ON THE COMPUTER.

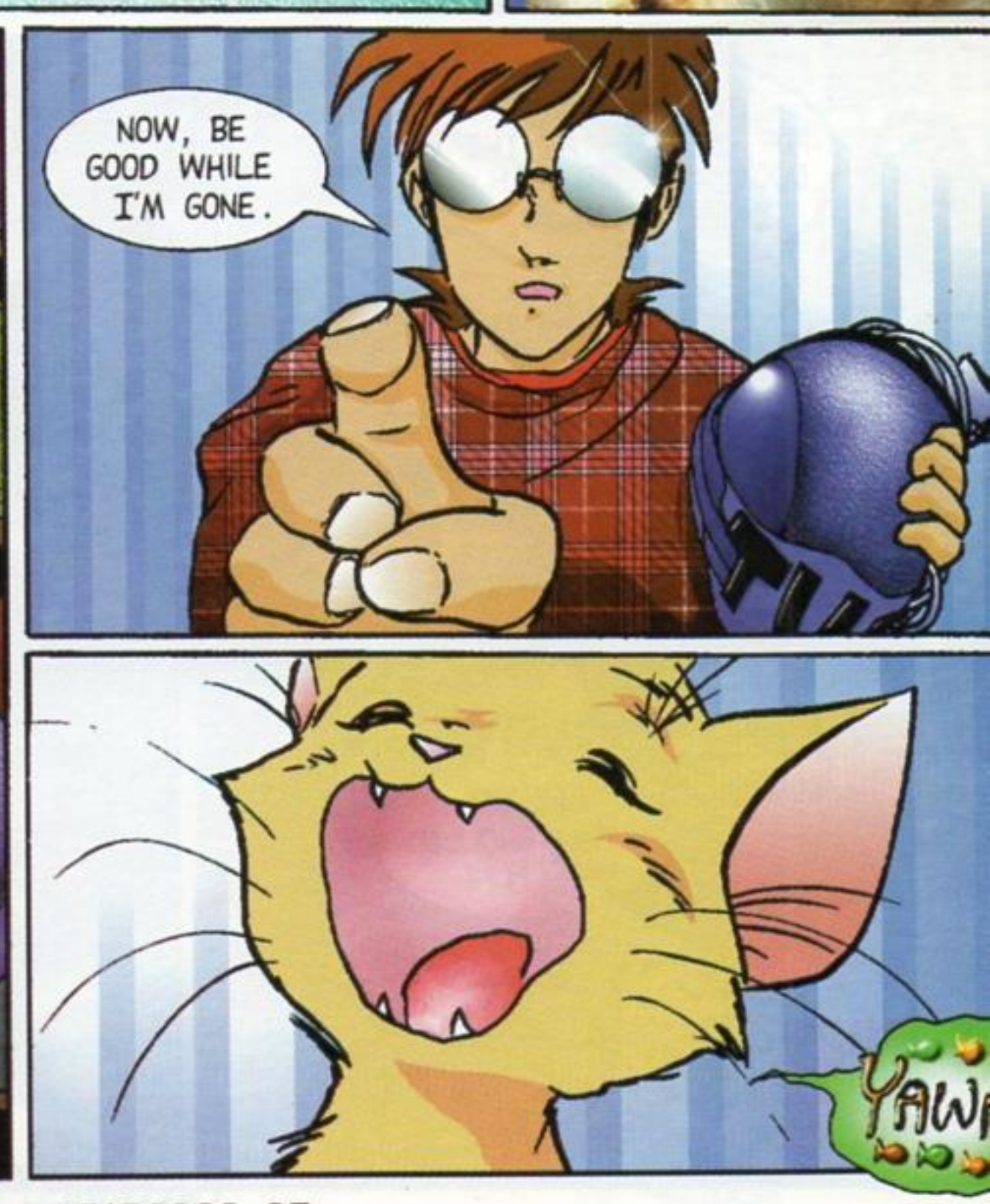
UNDERSTAND?
flipit flipit
NEE?

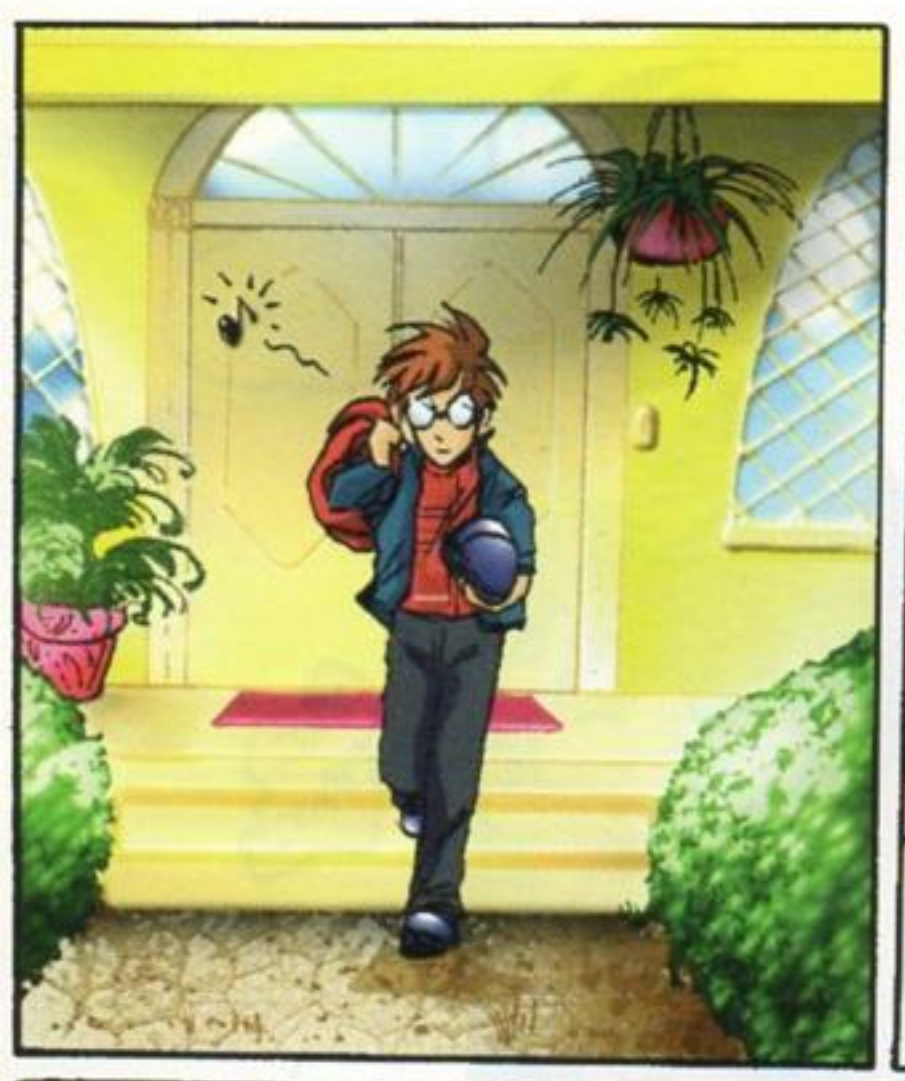
Sigh...
PAT... PAT...

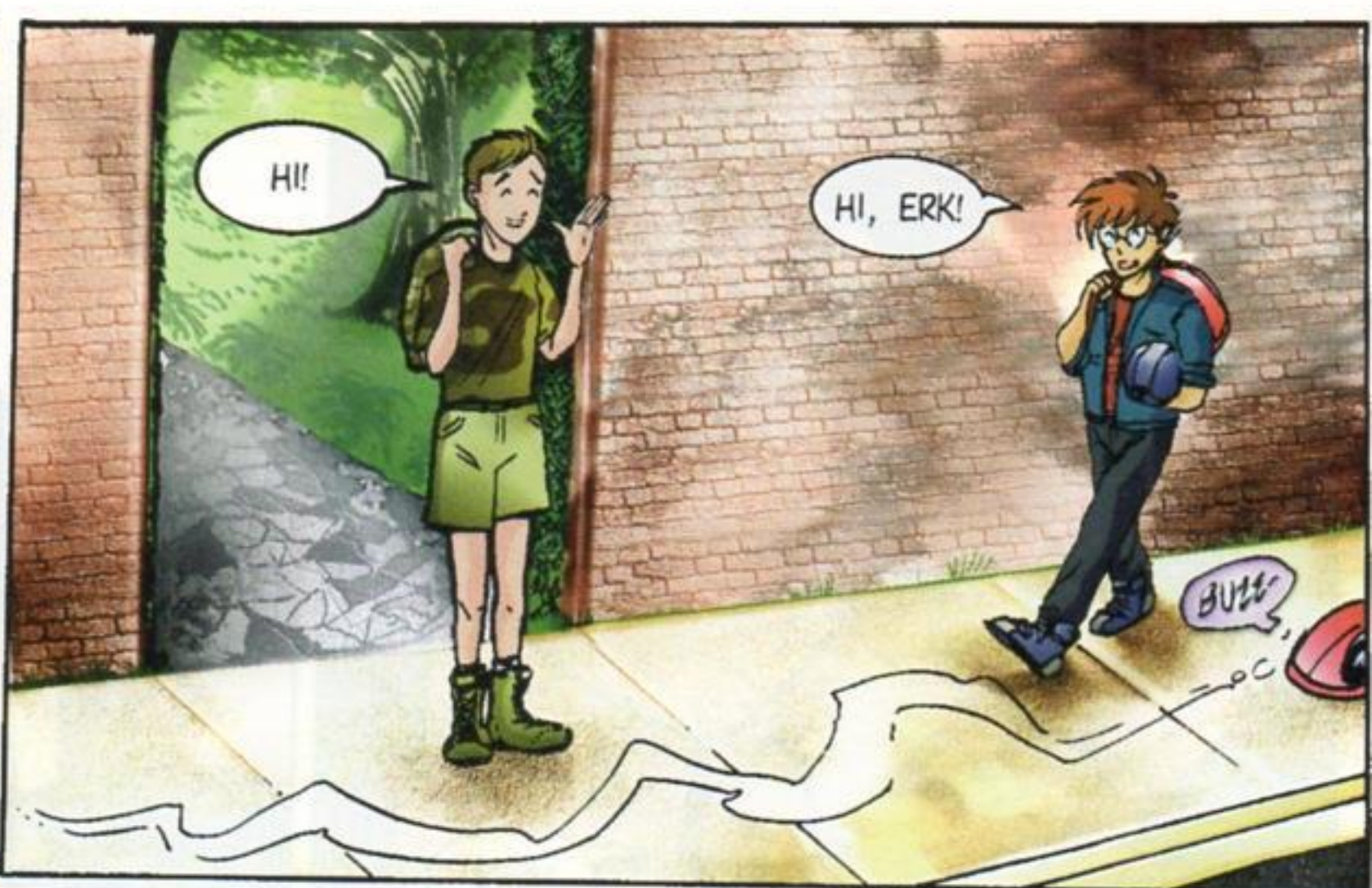
WELL, JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU DO UNDERSTAND, I'M NOT ONLY GOING TO LEAVE THE COMPUTER OFF...
RATTLE RATTLE
BOOKS 1980-89
BOOK 1970-

...BUT I'M GOING TO UNPLUG IT AS WELL.


TWAIN
SHAKESPEARE
OKAY, I'LL BE BACK LATER. I'M GOING ON A MOTORBOAT WITH ERK. HIS DAD'S RENTING ONE DOWN AT QUAKE HARBOR AND WE'RE GOING WATER SKIING.

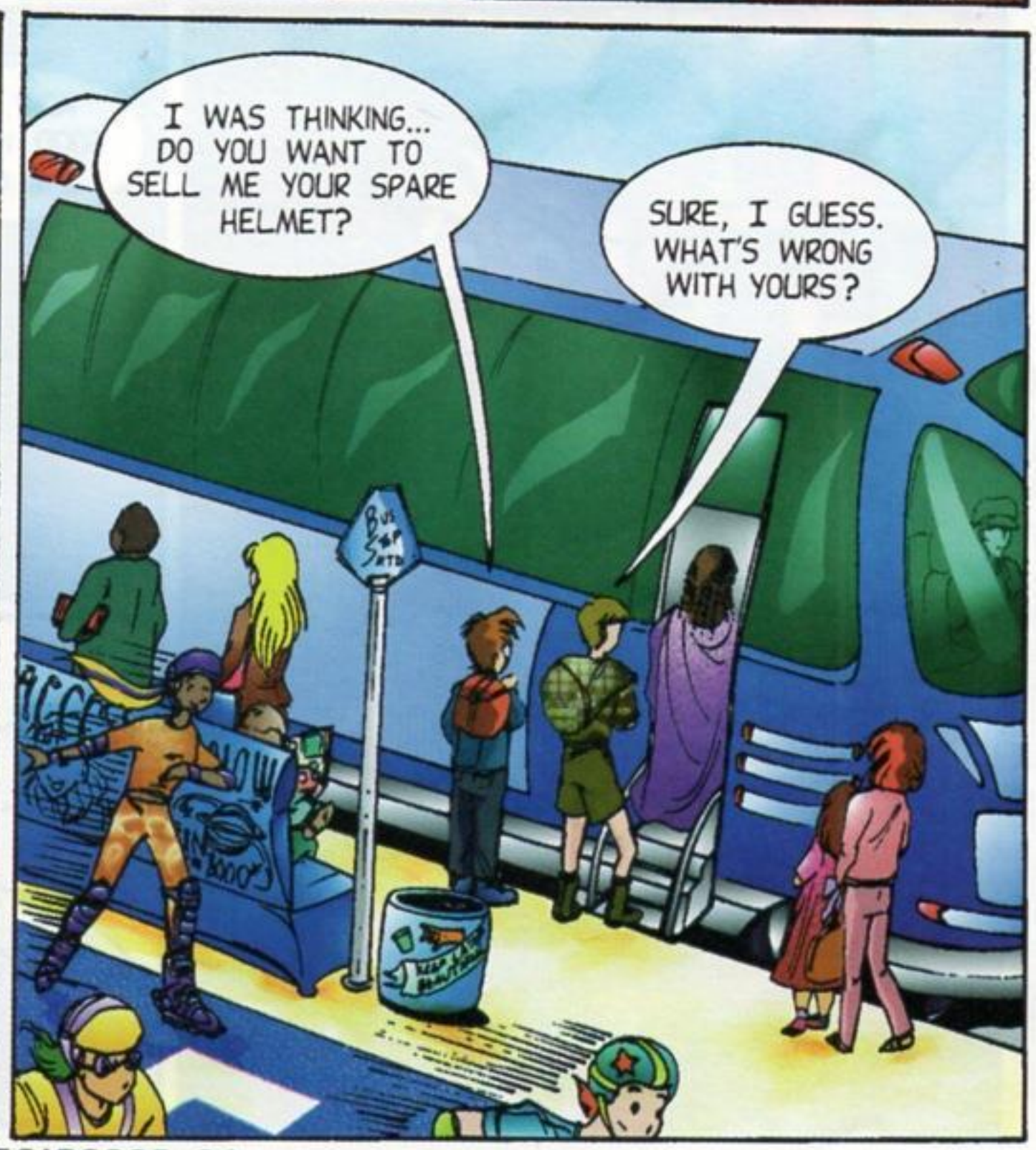

NOW, BE GOOD WHILE I'M GONE.
YAWN

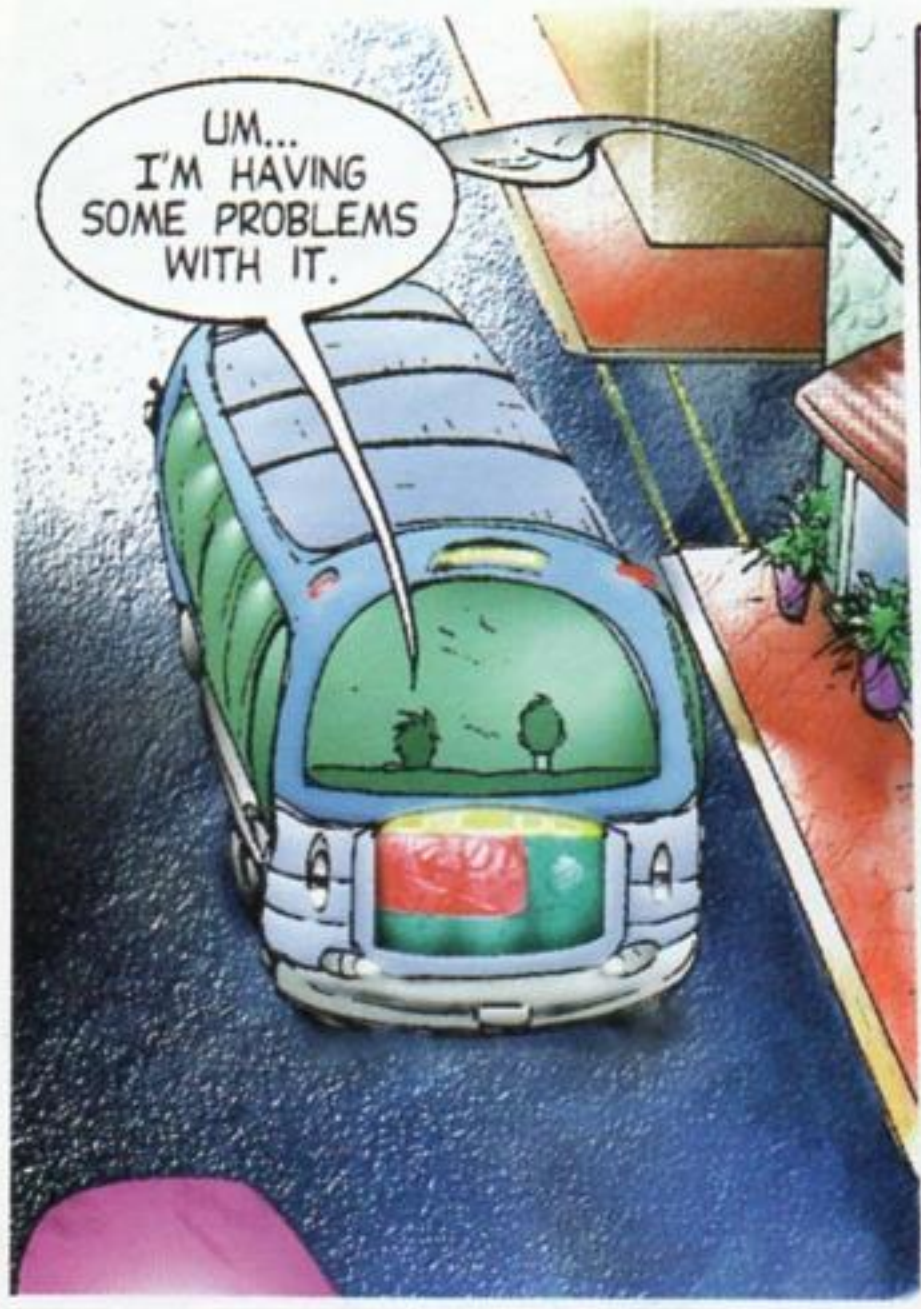



HI!
HI, ERK!
BUZZ

HEY, I BROUGHT YOUR SPARE HELMET. IF THE BOAT HAS SATELLITE LINK-UP AND WE GET BORED, I FIGURE WE COULD JUST GO ON THE V.I.S.
GOOD CALL.

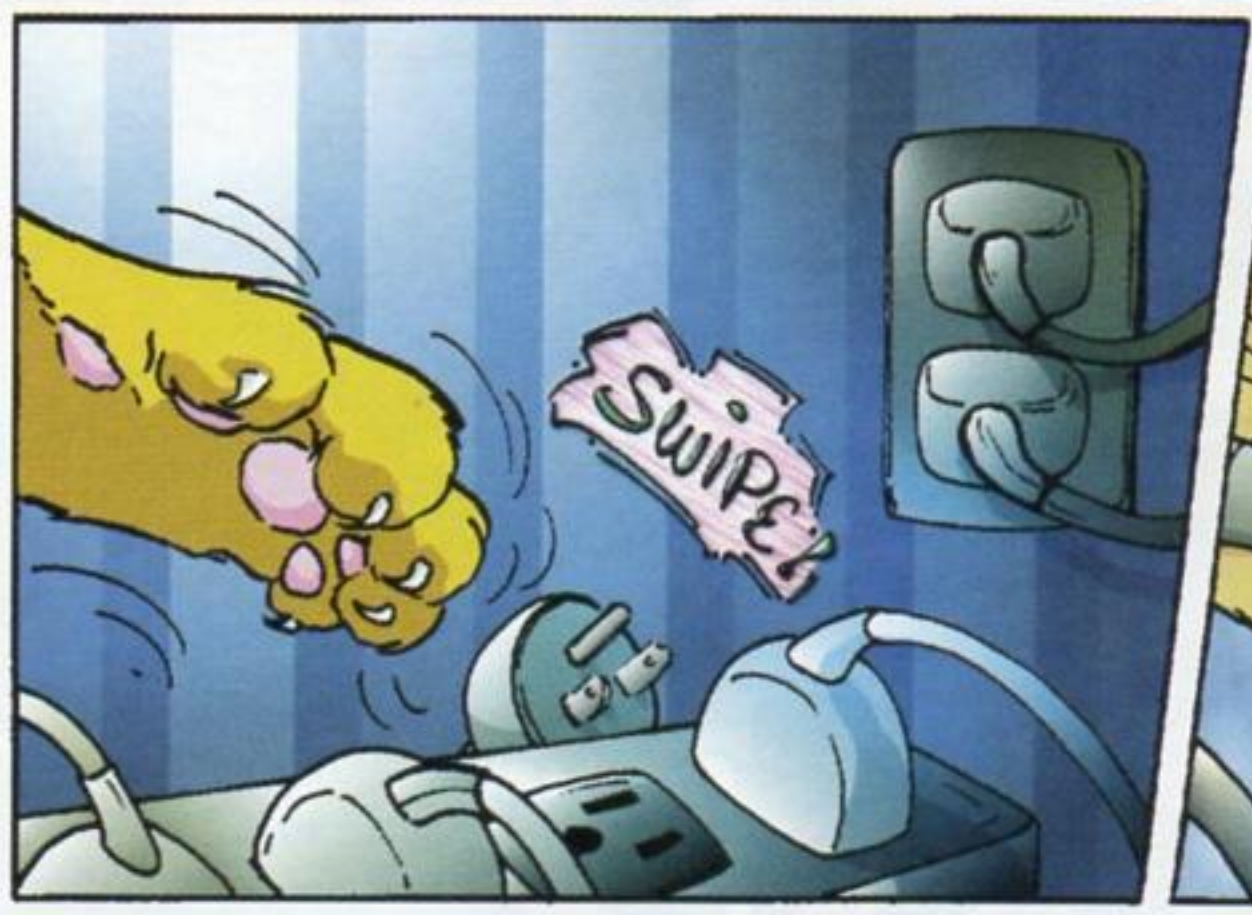
MY DAD'S WAITING FOR US DOWN AT THE DOCK AND - OH, YEAH - I INVITED MAIKO, TOO.
BUS STOP
RTD
GREAT! THIS SHOULD BE FUN!
TRY SOME!


I WAS THINKING... DO YOU WANT TO SELL ME YOUR SPARE HELMET?
SURE, I GUESS. WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOURS?


UM... I'M HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH IT.

TWITCH...

MAGAZINE
~1979

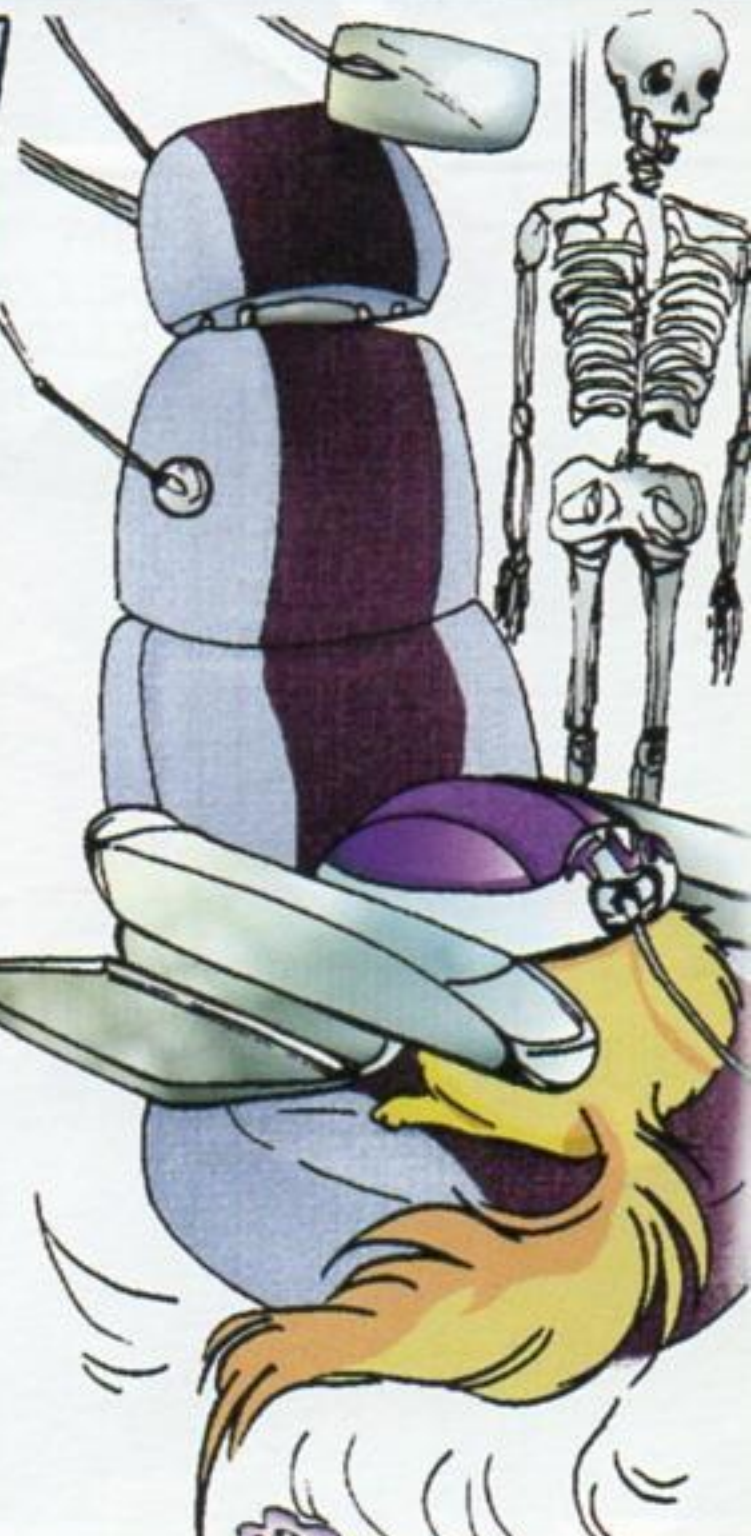

SWIPE!

SNAP!
ZOR

~1969

~1980

CLICK!


SWISH...

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012
The new Los Angeles coastline...

AH! QUAKE HARBOR! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD OL' MAJOR EARTH-QUAKE COMBINED WITH MELTING ICECAPS TO MAKE SOME OF THE BEST HARBORS IN THE WORLD!

YOU'RE SICK ERK.

THANK YOU.

?!

SAILBOATS!?!

EEP!

HEY! WHERE'S ALL THE MOTORBOATS? DID WE GO TO THE RIGHT DOCKS?
WHAT'S MY DAD UP TO?

...OH, YIPEE... KINDA HARD TO SKI WITH THOSE...

SIGH!

HELLO!

PUSH

PUSH

SIGH

HI, MAIKO...

HI BOYS!

DAD, THESE ARE ALL SAIL BOATS! I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING WATER SKIING!
OH, COME ON! I'VE BEEN ON THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT FOR THE LAST WEEK. I JUST GOT OFF A FEW HOURS AGO AND I'VE DECIDED THAT THIS TIME I'M GOING TO HAVE FUN MY STYLE.
SO WE'RE GOING FISHING!
IN QUAKE HARBOR?!
AH, THEY FIXED THAT SEWAGE RUN-OFF PROBLEM A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
HA! I FEEL MANLY! WITH A BIG ENOUGH HOOK I COULD CATCH A KRAKKEN!
GUYS, I FEEL THE HAND OF FATE PULLING ME BACK HOME.
GO THEN, COWARD. LEAVE COLLIN AND ME TO SUFFER NEPTUNE'S WRATH.
PUFF!...
QUIVER!...
THE GODS HAVE FORSAKEN US.

HEY, YOU KNOW THAT NEW MULTI-LEVEL RUN-A-MUCK I FOUND ON THE V.I.S.?

SNAP!!!

IT'S GOT A BEACH SIM NODE.

YEAH?

I'LL MEET YOU BOTH THERE.

SEE YA SOON!

Later...

ISN'T THIS GREAT?

DAD, YOU WORKED ALL NIGHT. SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO JUST GO HOME AND SLEEP?

CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

CRUNCH

NOPE! I FEEL PEACHY!

HEY LOOK, A SEAGULL.

CRUNCH

INTRUDER ALERT!

RUSTLE

CHEEZY PUFFS

CHEEZY PUFFS

WANT A CHEESE PUFF LITTLE, GUY?

UH COLLIN, THAT'S NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

EE-EEE!*

CRUNCH

FLAP FLAP

EE-EEE!

* Translation: Cheese Puffs!

EE-EEE!
EE-EEE!
WAAUGH!
EW...
CHEEZ PUFF
CHEEZ PUFF

EE-EEE!
EE-EEE!
EE-EEE!
EE-EEE!
TOSS THE BAGS OVER, QUICK!

....
TAP...TAP...
ERK! STOP THAT! WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU? HUH?
I KNOW! "I CAN'T SHOOT SEAGULLS BECAUSE ONLY STARLINGS, SPARROWS, AND PIGEONS ARE LEGAL GAME."
THAT'S RIGHT. NOW WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO BELOW AND FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO DO?
...YOU SCARE ME...
OH, SPARE ME! IT'S ONLY ILLEGAL IF THEY CATCH YOU...
THANK YOU.
HERE'S THE PHONE JACK. THIS BOAT HAS SATELLITE LINK-UP ALL RIGHT. HOO-HA!
GOOD!
AND OF COURSE I BROUGHT MY LAPTOP AND TVR.
THEN LET'S BLOW THIS CARTOON!
IT IS BLOWN, MEIN FREUND!

And so, in Cyberspace...

NICE SIM!

HEY, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

YOU GOT LOST, HUH?

HA HA...

NAH, COLLIN WAS FEEDING SOME BIRDS. ARE YOU JACKED IN AT YOUR HOUSE?

MM-HMMM. I LIVE ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM QUAKE HARBOR. I DIALED IN HERE THE SECOND I GOT BACK HOME.

CAT-A-BLINGA!

HEE HEE!!

OH - MY - GOD!

HEE! HEE HEE! HEE!

HEY!

UH...

UH...

WHOA!

WHO'S THAT? ...AND WHAT'S THAT?

UH...

DOES "SHE" HAVE A "TAIL"?

UH...

NYA, NYA, NYA-NYA!

NEE, NEE, NEE-NEE!

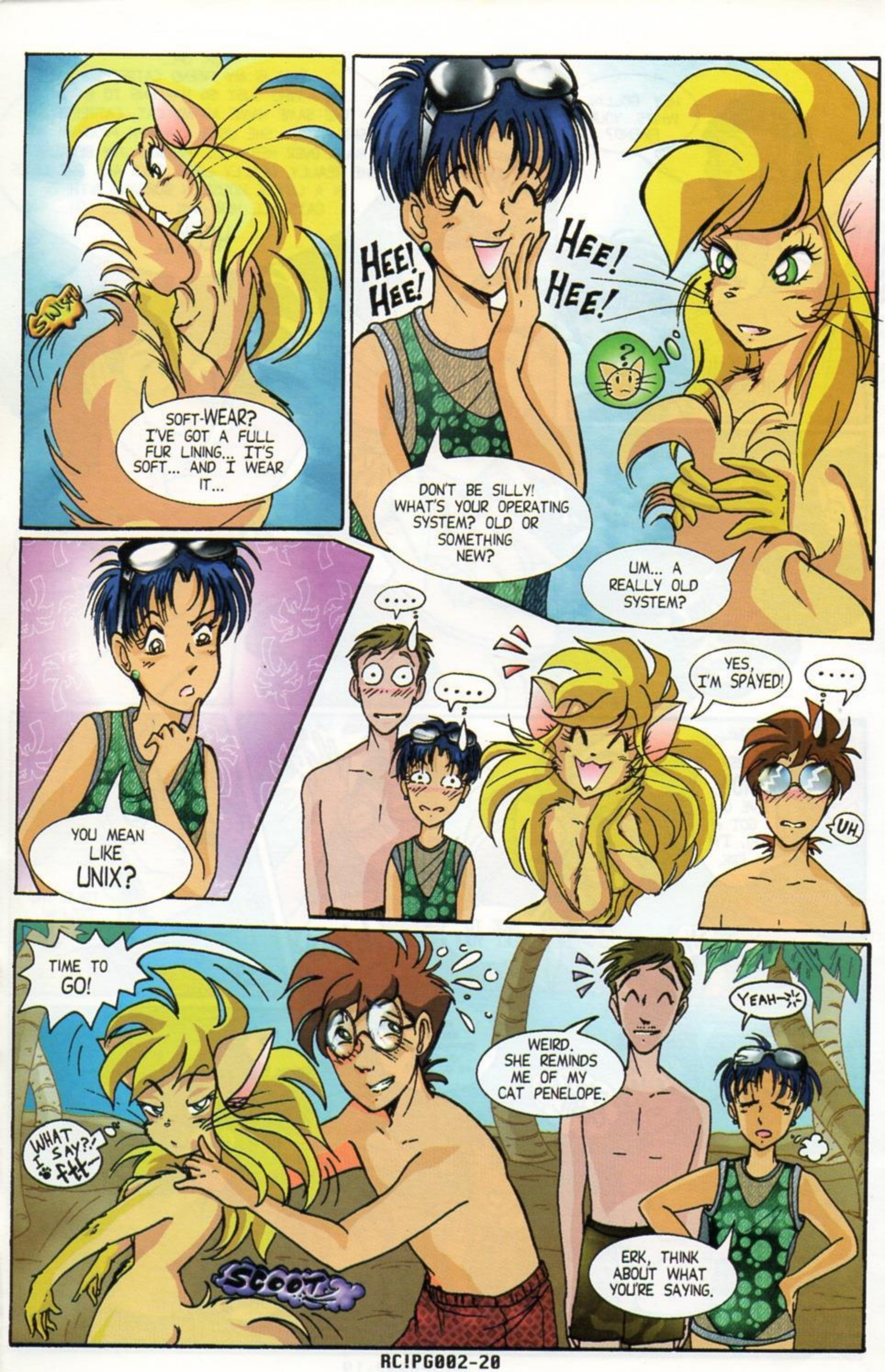
NYA, NEE, WAHOOO

EXCUSE ME!
OH NYA!!
?!!!
HEH?!
BONK!
OOF!
SORRY!
WHAT'S THAT?
PROBABLY USING A MORPH PROGRAM.
WACK!
IS THIS A COSTUME RUN-A-MUCK?
YEESH! MUST BE SOME CRAZED FURRY FAN!
DUH
SMACK!
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE....

BOING
KONK!
SKID!!!
OOF!!
WOW! THAT WAS FUN!
MOAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WOBBLE...
SURFING.
BUT I UNPLUGGED THE COMPUTER!
I PLUGGED IT BACK IN.
BUT I TURNED IT OFF!
I TURNED IT ON.
I SHUT THE PROGRAM DOWN!!
I SHUT IT UP.

SHUT UP- SHUT IN- SHUT ON...
???
ANYNYA, ISN'T THIS PLACE GREAT?
CATREECE, EVERYBODY'S STARING!
SO?
HIYA EVERYONE!!
...
...
?!
!?
!?
?!
?!
?!
?!
SLUMP!
...?
BE GONE!
BEAM ME OUT!
SPLIT!
OUTTAHERE!
BOOGIE!
ZOOM!
NARF!
ZIP!
FADE OUT!
AH, WHO CARES? TELL THEM ANYTHING YOU WANT! THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU! HUMANS ARE GULLIBLE! THAT'S WHY CATS RULE THE WORLD!
YUP! YUP!
SHUUU!!!
STOP IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL THEM ABOUT YOU!
SHRUG

HEY, COLLIN! WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
HEYA!
WELCOME TO BURBANK CA.
OH! UH... THIS IS MY FRIEND CATREECE - UH - WHO JUST SO HAPPENS TO HAVE THE SAME NAME AS MY CAT, CATREECE. SHE - UM - SHE USES A MORPH PROGRAM TO MASK OVER HER V.I.S. PERSONALITY BECAUSE SHE REALLY, REALLY LIKES CATS AND SHE LIVES IN A LITTLE HOUSE IN BURBANK WITH 25 CATS ALL HER OWN... AND... OH... HECK...
LIAR!
F++
UM...
SPARK!!
25? WOW! I'VE ONLY GOT 6! HI, I'M ERK.
SHAKE
NICE TO MEET YOU!
MOAN
TOLD YA, COLLIN!
THIS IS MAIKO. SUPER NETGIRL.
TRES COOL!
HI! WHAT KIND OF SOFTWARE ARE YOU USING TO DO THAT?
WELL...?
UM...?


SWISH
SOFT-WEAR? I'VE GOT A FULL FUR LINING... IT'S SOFT... AND I WEAR IT...
HEE! HEE!
HEE! HEE!
?
DON'T BE SILLY! WHAT'S YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM? OLD OR SOMETHING NEW?
UM... A REALLY OLD SYSTEM?
YOU MEAN LIKE UNIX?
....
....
YES, I'M SPAYED!
....
UH.
TIME TO GO!
WHAT SAY?!
ftt—
SCOOT
WEIRD. SHE REMINDS ME OF MY CAT PENELOPE.
YEAH—
ERK, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

CATREECE, YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH WHAT YOU SAY AROUND ERK AND MAIKO. THEY MAY BE MY BEST FRIENDS BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'LL ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE REALLY MY CAT.

BUT... I THOUGHT I WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND.

NWHAAA

HEEL

SNIFFLE

UH... YOU ARE! THEY'RE JUST MY BEST HUMAN FRIENDS.

OOOFF!

NEE! OKAY! LET'S GO PLAY!

SPRINT

MY... DON'T CATS RECOVER FAST...

REALITY CHECK...

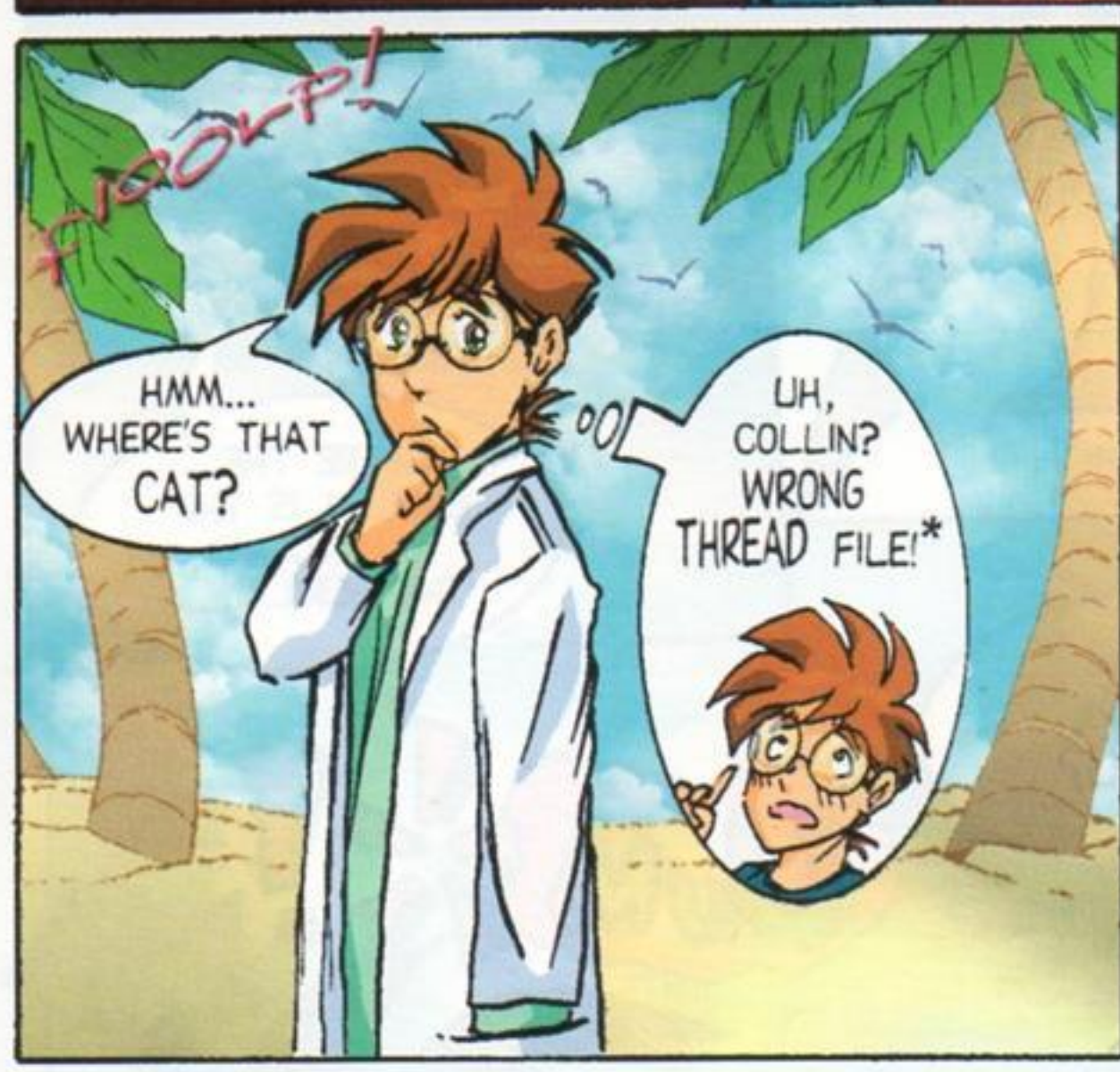
GAHK!

SNICKER!
JITTER!
YEEESH!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!

MAN, I HOPE I DON'T LOOK THAT BAD WHEN I'M LOGGED ON!
COLLIN LOGGED ON...

SIGH!
THIS WHOLE THING WITH MY CAT IS GETTING TOO WEIRD. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST STAY OFFLINE FOR A BIT...LET HER DO WHAT SHE WANTS...

.....
NYA!
GRRR!



*THREAD File: an Online Costume

With Apologies to Alfred Apaka!

Ftt! Ftt!